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Garden at Cresswicks Farm, Near Jenkintown, Pa., with the Peony as Leading Feature in Its Festive Array

## FESTIVE DAYS IN OUR GARDENS

By RICHARD ROTHE

Photographs by the Author

THE American woman is fast learning to gather loveliness about her, not for her own sake alone, not for the satisfaction of possessing loveliness, but for that best of all reasons, that she may pass on to others some joy in life. Be she artist, musician or homekeeper, it is all the same. The art which is a part of her, which enlarges and betters her own personal life becomes through her an inspiration to others. It is admirable to love beauty and the woman of means or the woman of want will somehow get her little share of it. One rose may glorify a little home as one garden may glorify the whole country side. The mistress of the home who is willing to impress her culture and her personality upon the making of her garden is giving expression to an art impulse quite as inspiring as if her message had gone out in a poem, a song or a picture.

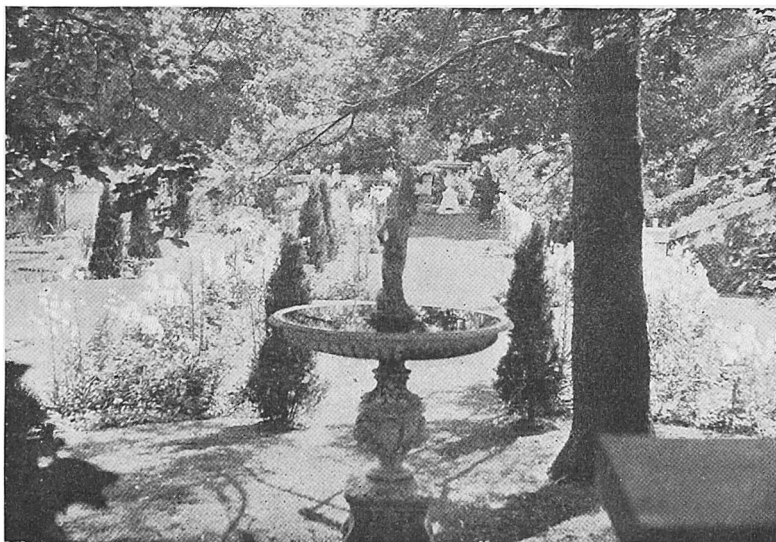
Once, not long since, I was commissioned by a woman in a prominent summer resort in Maine to select and arrange for her some cut flowers for her table. "Let it be festive" she said, and further explained like the true woman she was that by festive she did not necessarily mean expensive, for an expensive outlay, especially in flowers, is often bewildering and oppressive. The

festive array of a table or a hall suggests something above the every-day level, something distinctive and joyous which shall mark the occasion, and so I have found this word festive an appropriate one. The advanced class of American amateurs are well aware that this distinction applies to the arrangement and planting of flower gardens.

The Japanese, as is well known, adore their flowers in a true national spirit. The opening of the cherry blossoms, the marvelous glory of irises and the floral outburst of the chrysanthemums are holidays set aside for devotion to the fairest of nature's gifts—the flower. As part of their worship it is richly symbolic and being thus connected with their inner life it is a love far deeper than ours. They however limit themselves strictly to their native flora, while we keep our gates open to

the choicest of the world's blooms which are adaptable to our climate. We, therefore, have better opportunities to increase our festival days and on the whole to make them richer in forms of blossoms and in some cases more brilliant in color effects.

The scene for the festival events which we have in mind lies in the sheltered precinct of the garden as a distinct part of our



Flower Garden of "Elstowe" in Elkins Park, Pa. Blue, White and Yellow Are the Colors in Its Combination

home grounds. Whether the garden be formal or informal, large or small does not matter very much, providing the design affords ample possibilities for staging our material to its best advantage. As a rule, we do not want our garden in full sight of the street traffic but we do wish it as near to our house as possible in a location open to and to be enjoyed from the interior of the dwelling.

The longing for plenty of flowers from spring to fall leads to the study of a host of plant species and the desire for stability naturally turns our attention to hardy perennials. After learning to take certain catalog statements as "growing in any kind of soil," "requiring little or no care," with the



The Garden of the Author in Glenside, Pa., Showing the Advantage of Mass-Effect

proverbial grain of salt, we soon succeed in making our garden the picture not only of a wonderful wealth of blossoms but also of a veritable riot of colors which reaches its height during the month of June. This late May and early June climax, with the roses and many of the showiest perennials at their best, is going to be our regular season of festive character in its total effect, until we begin to make our garden our studio.

Visiting the studio gardens of advanced amateurs



Garden of Mrs. Henry Inman, Southwest Harbor, Maine. A Lesson in Arranging for a Joyous Season in August



Rose Arbor of Mrs. Geo. Willing, Jr., in Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa. The Construction of the Arbor Is Very Simple

is extremely interesting. Many delightful hours I have spent with those clear-minded happy home garden artists and rarely did I leave without seeing something new and instructive. Delicately arranged vernal compositions in white, blue, lavender, pink and yellow shades during April, and again the farewell festival of the season in October with hardy chrysanthemums and cosmos as leading features reveal surprising scope for the exercise of individual ingenuity in garden work. Some of the best object

lessons are found on those of our large private estates in charge of high-class gardeners acting as designers and caretakers of flower gardens. Here we see restriction to the hardiest and showiest plant species rather than the large collection, and here also are solved the important problems of agreeable color combinations and the employment of certain materials in masses for the purpose of conferring distinction and character upon the effect as a whole.

Our picture of the Garden at Cresswicks Farm with the impressive display of peonies as the distinctly festive note conveys this idea admirably. In spring array the peony bed is alive with the clear blue blossoms of *Scilla Sibirica* while for midsummer effect bulbs of *Lilium Auratum* and *Speciosum* bearing their noble flowers on tall slender stalks free above the foliage of the peonies are to usher in



Garden of Mr. Clement B. Newbold, Jenkintown, Pa., Showing a Festive June Display of Inspiring Character

another festive season. The little garden adjoining the beautiful mansion "Elstowe" at Elkins Park, Pa., offers as enchantment the three-color accord, blue, white and yellow: the combination of *Lilium Candidum* and *Phlox*, *Miss Lingard* in white, with *Delphinium Belladonna* in blue and *Coreopsis* in yellow. For edging, pansies, forget-me-nots and *Viola Cornuta* were used. Mrs. C. Stuart Patterson in Chestnut Hill preferred the gorgeous hues of Japanese irises for the gala days in her studio, while Mrs. Robert C. Lippincott in Germantown firmly believes in the queen of flowers—the rose to confer distinction. To Mr. Clement B. Newbold in Jenkintown we are indebted for the privilege of studying a picture of a festive June array of an inspiring order. In colors, pink, white and blue were leading, while red was barred entirely. Amid the ever-verdant spruces and pines of Maine Mrs. Henry Inman in her beautiful garden at Southwest Harbor gives us a lesson in how to arrange for joyous days in August, pink, white and yellow being the exclusive shades used.

Here the masses of *Phlox Paniculata* with large and rarely perfect flowers constitute the distinctive feature and here again the word festive is suggested.

Where one excels in these specific arrangements of merely transitory displays there naturally follows the desire to repeat them, that is to provide for a succession during the season. Fortunately the intervals in which this is possible are sufficiently long to insure their standard value. So far I have not been able to arrange for more than four different total arrays and in such cases only with the additional employment of annuals es-

pecially during midsummer and fall. But is it really necessary to insist always on a total transformation? Frequently a mere touch, a very simple combination creates the desired impression, as for instance that shown in the garden of Mr. John S. Melcher in Northeast Harbor, Maine, where the pure white of the Japanese iris and the tall intense blue spikes of *Delphinium Formosum* stand out in contrast with the dark evergreen background be-



Garden of Mrs. John S. Melcher in Northeast Harbor, Maine. White Japanese Iris and the Intense Blue of *Delphinium Formosum* Against the Dark Evergreen Background



hind. The plantation of foxgloves and sweet Williams on the author's place at Glenside, Pa., which aimed to demonstrate the advisableness of occasional massing of certain plants to secure an effect of brightness, offers a similar suggestion.

We all know the prominent part ramblers and flowering vines play in floral garden effects. Here Mrs. Geo. Willing, Jr., gives us a wonderful example in striking the strong festive note. Her rose arbor in Chestnut Hill, Pa., with its ingenious, but on the whole very simple design, is well worth studying. The average builder runs his pergola or arbor

hardly over eight feet in height; in our picture the posts measure sixteen feet. Ordinarily we have the top joists seldom over two feet apart and then covered by a dense growth of vines while the lower side on account of too much shade is usually bare. At Chestnut Hill the vines running up the high posts and across the top are freely exposed to the light and under the weight of their wealth of blossoms we see them gracefully suspending. The great majority of garden owners for an arbor of several

hundred feet would insist on planting at least a dozen different varieties in perhaps as many colors. Mrs. Willing was satisfied with one variety and one color: Dorothy Perkins. The result when in blossom is an imposing archway in rose-pink. As a vista it represents in its total effect a floral array of such rare beauty that it seems well worth a hundred-mile trip to see it.

Now again we are near the threshold of a new growing season. The garden is soon to bring to

light the first flowers of spring to gladden our hearts. Are we going to be satisfied with cutflowers for the house and a generally fair appearance, or is the garden to be made our studio with the result of an infinitely higher yield? Those who take delight in arraying for festive brightness not only expect to enjoy it but also know that it means enrichment of their very home life. As a pastime it is a diversion from the dull conventionalism of our days; it proves an educator and has the tendency to aid in deepening the love for home and country. Of all this I believe we have never seen enough.



Garden of Mrs. Stuart Patterson in Chestnut Hill, Near Philadelphia, with Japanese Iris for the Gala Days Late in June and Early in July



Garden of Mrs. Robert C. Lippincott, German town, Philadelphia, Pa. During the Reign of the Queen of Flowers—the Rose